

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 31, lines 19-20, with the following amended paragraph:

The smaller the value of UM, the larger the space time ID correlation.

Please replace the paragraph at page 36, lines 12-20, with the following amended paragraph:

For example, at step-~~S16~~ S14, the motion vector MV of one block is shifted pixel-by-pixel within a predetermined range, or the ID of one block is changed. Then, the procedure returns to step-~~S15~~ S13, and if the sum UT is larger than the previous one, the changed MV or ID is restored at step-~~16~~ S14. If the sum UT is less than the previous one, like change is made to the next block. The predetermined range is, for example, +4 pixels in each direction of left, right, top and bottom of the block.

Please replace the third paragraph at page 40, lines 9-18 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, an area A1 (a hatched figure in FIG. 19(C)) is determined by performing a logical AND operation between a figure, which is obtained by moving an object OBJ1(t - 1) shown in FIG. 19(A) by an average motion vector of the

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object OBJ1($t - 1$), and a figure of a corresponding object OBJ1(t) shown in FIG. 19(B). An area A0 of the figure of the object OBJ1($t - 1$) is also calculated. Then, the ratio of the areas "A1/A0" is calculated as the correlation. The area A0 may be the area ~~A0~~ of the figure of the object OBJ1(t).